

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 12 and 20 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 1, 11, 22, 24 and 26 are currently being amended.

Claims 28-33 are currently being added.

This amendment and reply adds, cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After adding, canceling and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 2, 11, 12 and 21-30 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 11, 12 and 20-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,959,158 to Ohta in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,882,807 to Sakagami. This rejection is traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Sakagami discloses a structure in which a coil and a yoke (ferrite) are located outward of a metallic heat roller. Ohta discloses that a coil and a ferrite core are located inward of a hollow heat roller.

On the other hand, in the present invention according to independent claim 1, coil members are located outward of a heat generating member, and a central shaft in which a core material is made from ferrite is located inward of the heat generating member. According to an embodiment of the present invention, the metal layer for generating heat is thin, and a magnetic flux leaks to enter the roller. To control the leaking magnetic flux, the ferrite core is provided inward of the heat generating member, thereby improving the heat generation efficiency.

Accordingly, as each of the other presently pending independent claims recite similar features to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, all of the presently pending claims under rejection patentably distinguish over the cited art of record.

New Claims:

New claims 28-33 have been added, whereby these new claims also patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. New dependent claims 28-30 recite features related to the disposition of the central shaft with respect to the heat generating member. New independent claim 31 recites a coil provided outward of a metal layer that is itself provided output of a shaft having a ferrite core. The coil causes the metal layer to generate an eddy current. Such features are not taught or suggested by either Sakagami or by Ohta, alone or in combination. New dependent claim 32 recites an elastic layer, and new dependent claim 33 recites that the coil is divided into a plurality of coil portions, and in which the ferrite core is provided in a position corresponding to a gap between the coil portions.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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